

## THE GULL



## BIRDS IN CHINA?

Yes, Virginia, there are birds in China, but you have to know where to look for them. George Peyton, a recent member of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors, led a bird tour to Heilongjiang Province (the old Manchuria in northeast China near the Russian border) this May, and saw many species that few Americans have on their life lists.

Visiting substantial forests, including two virgin forests, and one of the great marshlands of the world, Zhalong Nature Preserve, where six of the fifteen species of cranes of the world are found, the birding group saw many beautiful species such as Red-crowned Crane, Dauria Red-start, Red-flanked Bluetail and Azure Magpie. In addition, the tour included a week in Hokkaido, Japan's northern island, where a number of additional bird species including the Siberian Ruby-throat, and gorgeous wild scenery added to the enjoyment of the group.

Come join us on **Thursday, November 8** at 7:30 p.m. at Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, to see George's slides of these fascinating areas of China and Japan which few birders have ever visited.

## ADOPT-A-CLASS

"Audubon Adventures", a supplement to "Audubon Action", has been in publication since June. It can be now ordered for classroom use. GGAS is beginning an adopt-a-class program for grades 3 through 6. Each class we adopt will receive a full class set of the student newspaper "Audubon Adventures", Audubon youth club membership cards and decals, and reinforcement materials for the teacher.

Help advance environmental education; join our Adopt-a-Class program by sending your check to GGAS. A contribution of \$20 will sponsor one classroom for a school year. If you wish to adopt a specific class let us know the teacher's name, grade, school (including address and phone #), and district. If you would like GGAS to select a class we will gladly do so. Teachers are invited to submit applications for adoption to The Education Committee, Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Saturday, November 3 — Beginners Trip to Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.** See Oct. Gull.

**Sunday, November 4 — Tennessee Valley.** See Oct. Gull.

**Saturday, November 10—Coyote Hills.** See Oct. Gull.

**Wednesday, November 14—Mini-trip to Hayward Regional Shoreline.** Meet at 10 a.m. at the shoreline in Hayward. Take the Nimitz freeway(Hwy. 17) to Hayward. Exit at West Winton Ave., follow Winton west toward the Bay until it ends at the shoreline lot. Bring scopes and lunch. Rain Cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

**Saturday, November 17—Birds of Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park San Francisco.** Meet at 8 a.m. at the front gate near Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way. We will look for birds in the various habitats of the arboretum Leader: Alan Ridley (566-3241)

**Sunday, November 18 — Monterey Bay and Coastal Areas.** Meet at 9 a.m. in Monterey at the foot of the Coast Guard Pier. We will bird in this area and drive north stopping at various spots including Moss Landing. Bring a scope if you have one. Leader: Don Starks (408-371-9720) (✓)

**Thursday, November 22 — Tenth Annual Thanksgiving outing to Point Reyes National Seashore.** We hope to see all alumni of previous trips and to welcome newcomers. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Larkspur Ferry Terminal, Section H, or at 10 a.m. at the Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters at Olema. We will have a leisurely

day of birding and hiking. We generally see an excellent variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and landbirds. The day will end with the Thanksgiving dinner (about \$8+) at Jerry's Farm house (no reservations are needed) in the town of Olema. Bring a light lunch, scope and clothes for cool and windy weather. Leader: Barry Spitz (461-1930 days or 454-2769 between 6 and 9 p.m.). (✓)

**Saturday/Sunday, November 24/25 —Sacramento and Gray Lodge Wildlife Refuges.** On Saturday meet at 9 a.m. in parking lot #15 at Gray Lodge. Approach via Hwy. 99 and follow the signs out of Live Oak or Gridley. On Sunday meet at 8 a.m. at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge headquarters seven miles south of Willows. There is a state park campground in Colusa. For those wishing to stay in a motel, the Blue Gum in Willows (916-934-5401) is suggested. From the Bay Area drive east on I-80 to I-505 in Vacaville, take I-505 to I-5 and dive north to Willows for lodging or turn off sooner for the refuges. Bring lunch, scopes and clothes appropriate for the valley in December. Leaders: Peter and Dolores White (229-1714). (✓)

**Saturday, December 1—Corte Madera Marsh.** Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking area across the street from the trailer court just south of the Lucky Drive exit from Hwy. 101. This exit is just south of the Sir Francis Drake/ Larkspur Ferry Terminal. Bring a scope, lunch and liquids. Rubber boots are also desirable. This trip is frequently rainy but will not be rained out. We should see ducks, wading birds, shorebirds and perhaps merlin. Leader: Bob Hirt (383-5337). (✓)

Sunday, December 2—Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the second parking lot at the Bear Creek Rd. entrance. From Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit and turn north onto Camino Pablo. Go north for about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. (Briones Park sign), turn right and drive four miles to the park entrance. We will walk about 2.5 miles. We should see many of the common wintering birds of the interior areas of the Bay Area. We may see Golden Eagles. Bring lunch. This trip should end about 1 p.m. Leader: Chris Swarth (849-2053).

(√)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (√). Call Kate Partridge at 724-2116 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or needed information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

## KESTERSON RESERVOIR CLOSED TO BIRDERS

All public access into the 1,300 acre storage pond facility has been closed, gates are locked and regulatory signs are in place. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has begun hazing waterfowl and wildlife at the Kesterson Refuge in an attempt to reduce exposure to the high concentrations of selenium found in the reservoir, near Gustine.

Propane exploders, whistle bombs and shell crackers will be used in

the effort to prevent migratory wildfowl from using the reservoir as a feeding and resting site. Nearby waterfowl habitats will be improved to make them more attractive as alternate feeding and resting places.

The natural element selenium concentration in the reservoir is believed to be the cause of unusually high incidences of chick mortality and abnormalities among nesting birds at the reservoir. Selenium enters the reservoir in agricultural drainage water and is concentrated through evaporation.

## OBSERVATIONS: Through Sept. 25

### PELAGICS

A Streaked Shearwater was seen one mile off Manresa Beach, Santa Cruz Co., Sept. 5 (SA). All five North American records have been rather close to shore in Monterey Bay, during late September and early October. A Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen about five times (DLS, mob). off Monterey. Bleck-vented Shearwaters continued their early flight north from Mexico. "Quite a few" were noted in a migration of many shearwaters off Pescadero and Pigeon Point Sept. 8 (JR, JG). On Sept. 16, 200 were tallied on a Monterey boat trip, and on Sept. 23 2 were spotted flying north past Point Reyes (all JM, et al.). Also on Sept. 16 the storm-petrel flocks off Moss Landing had two Wilson's and 200 Leasts (AB, JM, JML, et al.)

One Long-tailed Jaeger was found off Monterey Sept. 3 (RJ, mob). An out of place pelagic was the juvenal Sabine's Gull flying north over Hayward Shoreline Sept. 20 (BR). Also unexpected were a Craveri's Mur- relet at Bodega Head Sept. 10 (MLR).

NC, RI) and two Craveri's there Sept. 15 (RM).

### COASTAL WATERBIRDS

Brown Pelicans on SE Farallon Island peaked at a very high 5670 on Sept. 9 (PRBO). Single White-faced Ibises were in the coastal zone at Elkhorn Slough Sept. 9 (GC, AS) and at the Salinas Sewage Ponds through Sept. 15-17 (JML, DR, ML, mob).

The King Eider was refound at Brooks Island Sept. 16 (BR). The Harlequin Duck lingered near the mouth of Drake Estero at least to Sept. 8 (DT).

A Franklin's Gull at Salinas Sewage Ponds was last reported Sept. 15 (mob). Another (?) Franklin's Gull was off Monterey the next day. A flock of 120 Elegant Terns at SE Farallon Sept. 15 was an unprecedented number there (PRBO). Two Black Skimmers were seen at Elkhorn Slough Sept. 15 and apparently earlier (JM, et al.).

### SHOREBIRDS

To the general birding public, the Salinas Sewage Ponds became known and accessible as a shorebird hot spot only this month. The best birds were the three Buff-breasted Sandpipers and a Ruff present Sept. 15-23 (ML, JML, DR, mob, HG, PG). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was there Sept. 3 (DR), and Solitary Sandpipers were reported Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 (BW, BG, DR), and Sept. 17 (GC, FR), and Sept. 23 (DS). Estimates of Pectoral Sandpipers at these ponds peaked at 100 on Sept. 15 (DR, JML, et al.).

Another impressive concentration of Pectoral Sandpipers was 89 at Hayward Sept. 22 (BR). Our other

Solitary Sandpiper was at Carmel River Mouth Sept. 8 (JMS, MAD, et al.) Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Limantour Sept. 4 (JR, et al.) and at Elkhorn Slough Sept. 9 (JML). Two other Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were located, one at Elkhorn Slough Sept. 3-16 (WR, mob, HG, PG) and the other at SE Farallon Sept. 9 (PRBO). A Stilt Sandpiper flew over the pond at Zmudowski State Beach Sept. 1 (WR).

### HAWKS

A spectacular migration of over 2400 hawks (mostly "Accipiters") passed Pt. Diablo Sept. 21. This flight included four Broadwinged Hawks, including one dark morph., and one Swainson's Hawk (all CF). Two other Broad-winged Hawks passed there Sept. 23 (CF, et al.). Another was seen perched near Spaletta Ranch on Point Reyes Sept. 23 (EM, AM). A Swainson's Hawk was at Fish docks Aug. 19 (RS, JE).

### EASTERN WARBLERS

Coastal vagrant hunting was poor due to the entire month of hot, generally clear Indian Summer weather. High cloudiness associated with a tropical air mass brought the only substantial wave of vagrants to both SE Farallon Island and Point Reyes on Sept. 20.

Vagrant numbers were almost universally low, and several expected species were missed. Only 42 individual warblers of 14 species are itemized in the following table. Only Prairie Warblers and the last four species in the table (two "Oporornis" and two "Wilsonia") could be said to be in normal numbers. In fact, the three Mournings and two Connecticuts are surprisingly high in view of the poor weather. Both species are being

reported with increasing regularity. The lone Palm Warbler was exceptionally early (Sept. 3); the observer knew this and identified it carefully (BW).

Remember that all SE Farallon dates are arrivals only.

**Tennessee Warbler (Total 3)**

1 SE Farallon	Sept. 20	PRBO
1 Ft. Funston, S.F.	Sept. 15	DM, et al.
1 Summit Rd., Berkeley	Sept. 23	JT

**Chestnut-sided Warbler (Total 5?)**

1 SE Farallon	Sept. 20	PRBO
2 Point Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 17	SC, JK
1 Nunes Ranch	Sept. 18	WG, AG
1 Mendoza Ranch	Sept. 20	MW
1 Willows & Fish Docks	Sept. 20	MW, DSi

**Magnolia Warbler (Total 2)**

1 Point Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 16	EH, JMS, DAD, et al.
1 Point Diablo	Sept. 24	HB, MLR

**Black-throated Green Warbler (Total 1)**

1 SE Farallon	Sept. 20	PRBO
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**Prairie Warbler (Total 4, 5 for fall to date)**

2 SE Farallon	Sept. 10, 28	PRBO
1 Fish Docks	Sept. 13-22	BL, DE, JH, mob
1 Mendoza Ranch	Sept. 18-23	LCB, KC, NC, et al.

**Palm Warbler (Total 1)**

1 Carmel River Mouth	Sept. 3	BW
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**Blackpoll Warbler (Total 7)**

1 SE Farallon	Sept. 14	PRBO
3 Point Reyes	Sept. 15, 17, 21	JG, mob, MLR
1 Ft. Funston	Sept. 15	DM, et al.
1 Salinas Sewage	Sept. 15	JML, DR, et al.
1 Carmel River Mouth	Sept. 20	HG, PG

**Black-and-white Warbler (Total 3, 4 for fall)**

1 Mendoza Ranch	Sept. 20	BR, et al.
1 Alamo Square, S.F.	Sept. 25	CJ
1 Gazos Creek Rd.	Sept. 18	JMS, MAD

**American Redstart (Total 7)**

1 SE Farallon	Sept. 20	PRBO
5 Point Reyes	Sept. 9-10(2)	mob
	Sept. 19-23	PGo, RT
1 Battery Wallace	Sept. 22-23	

**Northern Waterthrush (Total 2)**

1 SE Farallon	Sept. 20	PRBO
1 Carmel River Mouth	Sept. ?-15-20	mob, HG, PG

**Connecticut Warbler (Total 2)**

1 SE Farallon	Sept. 20	PRBO
1 Fish Docks	Sept. 20	JE, mob

**Mourning Warbler (Total 3)**

2 SE Farallon	Sept. 8, 20	PRBO
1 Fish Docks	Sept. 21	RS, et al.

**Hooded Warbler (Total 1)**

1 S. of Carmel River Mo.	Sept. 11	WR
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**Canada Warbler (Total 1)**

1 Carmel River Mouth	First ½ Sept.	mob
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## OTHER EASTERN PASSERINES

This fall's first Least Flycatcher arrived on SE Farallon Sept. 18 (PRBO). The male Summer Tanager remained at Middle Lake in Golden Gate Park at least to Sept. 22 (DS), and by Sept. 15 it had molted into fully adult plumage (DM, et al.). Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared on SE Farallon Aug. 22 (PRBO) and at Monte Rio, Sonoma Co., Sept. 8 (LA).

Seven Lark Buntings was a very high total for early fall Farallon arrivals were Sept. 8 and 14 (PRBO). On Point Reyes Singles were at Nunes Ranch Sept. 1-2 (MW, et al.), Lighthouse Sept. 15-17 (JG, mob, DT), and Spaletta Ranch Sept. 16 (EH, GN, SS). The others were at Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 8 (RD, BL) and the south end of Corte Madera Marsh Sept. 15 (NB). An eastern Fox Sparrow was on Point Diablo Sept. 19 (CF).

Bobolinks were well represented, with 12 evenly divided between SE Farallon and the mainland. The latter were: one at Carmel River Mouth Sept. 8 (ML, JML, et al.), one at St. Vincent School near Novato about Sept. 10 (KW), two at Horseshoe Pond east of Drakes Beach Sept. 20 (KV), and two at Salinas Sewage Ponds Sept. 22-23 (MLR, JR). On SE Farallon one arrived Sept. 17 and five arrived Sept. 20 (PRBO).

## GREAT BASIN AND SOUTHWEST

SE Farallon received very small but distinct waves featuring birds of Great Basin or Southwest origin September 8 and 14 (PRBO). Similar birds were noted at Point Reyes, but no waves were distinguished, perhaps due to uneven coverage.

Farallon arrivals on Sept. 8 included

Brewer's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and two Black-throated Sparrows. Sept. 14 brought White-winged Dove, Painted Bunting, and Brewer's Sparrow. Another Black-throated Sparrow appeared Sept. 13, and a second Vesper Sparrow on Sept. 18 (all PRBO).

On Point Reyes the Tropical Kingbird at Mendoza Ranch Sept. 23 (JM, et al.) was presumably from western Mexico. The Painted Redstart at Fish Docks Sept. 17 (DT, mob) represents the first truly Northern California record for this species. A Green-tailed Towhee was at Mt. San Bruno Co. Park Sept. 3 (JMacC). Two more visited the Road Forks quarry on Point Reyes Sept. 18 and one remained through Sept. 22 (DS, JE, et al.). Point Reyes Black-throated Sparrows were singles at Lighthouse Sept. 17 (DT, mob), Hall Ranch Sept. 18 (LCB, KC, NC), and Nunes Ranch Sept. 21 (PLaT). The one at Hall Ranch was flycatching in the cypresses!

## OTHER LANDBIRDS

Two Pygmy Nuthatches were re-found Sept. 12 0.6 miles south of Skyline Blvd. and Capitol Dr. in Oakland (BR).

A Brown Shrike on SE Farallon Sept. 20-22 (PRBO) constitutes the first North American record outside Alaska.

A Lapland Longspur stopped on SE Farallon Sept. 20 (PRBO) and another was at Road Forks on Point Reyes Sept. 23 (BDP, et al.). Farallon Yellow-headed Blackbirds arrived Aug. 27 and 31 (PRBO). Mainland Yellowheads were at Nunes Sept. 2 (JW, et al.), Cader Lane Ponds Sept. 4 (KC), and Salinas Sewage Ponds Sept. 22-23 (JR, DS).

Apparently-stable flocks of Red Crossbills seem to have settled in on

most of the conifer-forested ridges in Marin County (BN, et al.). About 40 are resident at Five Brooks (AG, WG) and 20-30 at Forest Knolls (BN). Observers should be alert for signs of nesting this fall and winter. Beginning in mid September sizeable flights of Pine Siskins appeared in Marin County (BN, et al.).

**Observers:** Leon Abrams, Steve Allison, Alan Baldridge, Laurence C. Binford, Neil Blank, Herb Brandt, Kurt Campbell, Graham Chisholm, Susan Collins, Nancy Conzett, Mary Ann Danielson, Ruth Denmark, David Edwards, Jules Evans, Carter Faust, Bruce Gerow, Albert Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Phil Gordon (PGo), Helen Green, Paul Green (PG), Jeff Greenhouse, John Hall, Ed Harper, Richard Ives, Richard Jeffers, Christine Jones, Janey Kelly, Jeri M. Langham, Peter LaTourette, Bill Lenarz, Mike Lipsinger, John MacCormick, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, many observers (mob), Roger Marlowe, Joseph Morlan (JM), Dan Murphy, Gary Neal, Dan Nelson, Bill Noble, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Jay F. Penniman), Benjamin D. Parmeter, Fred Rice, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Will Russell, Al Schmitz, Susan Scott, David Sedgin (DS), Bary Seelye, Debra Love Shearwater Dianne Sierra (DSi), Jean Marie Spoelman, Richard Stallcup, Jean Thomas, Ron Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, Brian Weed, Jack Whetstone, Mike Wihler, Katherine Wilson.

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524-7421)

## THE BACK YARD BIRDER

I fled my back yard in September for the moors of Scotland and the English countryside. Armed with my binoculars and a field guide which I picked up in a castle book shop(!), I identified 34 species in two weeks. Most of my birding was from the car and at picnic stops. What a contrast to the kinds and numbers of birds we see in our area! I wondered if this were not partly because birds have been hunted avidly for hundreds of years in Europe, perhaps resulting in a wariness of humans. Millions of songbirds of all sizes are still shot or captured for the stew pot in many countries in Europe and Africa. In England and other northern countries where people prefer to watch birds, not kill them, the reaction is one of outrage. "Their" migratory birds must pass through these southern countries where it is culturally acceptable to kill and eat songbirds. As a result, organizations have been formed to protect birds in Europe.

In our country, efforts at bird conservation did not really gain much recognition until the late 1800's and the ball didn't really get rolling until much later. By then the Passenger Pigeon, the Heath Hen, the Carolina Parakeet, the Great Auk were extinct and other species were close to extinction. The edibility of most birds was one contributing factor to the hunting of birds and their eggs. The fashionability of hats adorned with beautiful wings and feathers led to the demise of many an egret, tern or Roseate Spoonbill. Even smaller species suffered: a society columnist of the day raved about a dress made of the iridescent throat feathers of 3,000 hummingbirds.

The Audubon movement began in 1886 as a militant lobby for bird preservation. Now Audubon leaders realize that the most serious threats to bird life are ones that unselectively threaten all life on earth, e.g. air pollution, habitat destruction, the indiscriminate use of chemicals and the careless disposal of both organic and inorganic wastes. Our Audubon Society promotes all sorts of recreational and educational experiences in order to receive support in maintaining a liveable planet.

As noted in Christopher Leahy's book, *The Birdwatcher's Companion*, the main thrust of today's conservation movement lies in three areas: —Ecosystem preservation. It is far more practical to protect whole systems of interdependent organisms, including birds, than to try to save a single species. Saving habitat sounds simple: buy land and maintain its integrity. But the pressures of human hunger and development are in continual conflict against its effective execution.

—Monitoring, correcting and safeguarding against environmental deterioration. This is a toughie as there are never enough funds for proper investigation of our environment and environmentalists themselves are thought of as spoilsports and impeders of human progress.

—Captive breeding. Along with the Peregrine Project mentioned in an earlier column, the captive breeding of Whooping Cranes is encouraging. The goal of such projects is to increase the numbers of rare species in captivity so that eventually these birds can be released in suitable parts of their former range.

What can we, as individuals, do? Belonging to Audubon helps us to keep

informed on environmental issues and tells us to whom to voice our opinions. My hope is that there are people in other parts of this planet earth who share these very real concerns regarding "our" wildlife and "our" world!

— MEG PAULETICH

## OAKLAND CBC UPDATE

In an effort to alleviate the difficulties, real or imagined, of participation in a Christmas Bird Count, Steve Bailey and Kurt Campbell will conduct a workshop that will cover several key areas. Among them are leadership skills, local bird expectations, special attention to the identification of problem species such as scaup, dowitchers and gulls, counting, estimating and record keeping, documentation skills, and making the final paperwork easy.

The workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room upstairs in the Co-Op, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

The countdown dinner will again be held at the Trinity Methodist Church, 2320 Dana, Berkeley. Because the room is being used for another activity earlier in the afternoon, GGAS members will not have access until after 5:00 p.m.

The dinner will consist of hearty soup, salad, bread and dessert. The cost is \$3.50, payable at the door.

Full details of the Oakland count are in the October Gull, but we wish to remind you that your participation either in the field or at your feeder is welcomed and needed on Sunday, December 16. If you have not received an invitation by November 10 and want to join us, call Nancy Conzett (527-2593), Chris Swarth (849-2053), or the GGAS office (843-2222).

## CHRISTMAS COUNT — POINT REYES

This year the Point Reyes Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15. If you did not participate in the count last year and are interested in doing so this year, please drop a note to me at 8 Inman Ave., Kentfield, CA 94904.

— BILL LENARZ

## SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Set aside Thursday, December 27, for the San Francisco Christmas Count. This count needs birders who can be in the field all day, or who can spend an hour or so by their feeders. In addition we need people who can bird before work or during lunch hours so we can get adequate coverage of our business and industrial areas. If you wish to participate in this year's San Francisco count telephone Dan Murphy at 564-0074. Last year's participants will be notified by mail.

## FREMONT ADULT SCHOOL CLASSES

Birding Field Trips on six Tuesdays starting Oct. 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (no class Nov. 20) Each class will visit a different birding spot.

Nature Walks on six Thursdays starting Nov. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (no class on Nov. 22). Walks will visit Bay Area parks.

The instructor for these offerings will be Alice Hoch; the sponsor is the Fremont Adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave, Fremont, CA 94538. Phone 971-5841 or 657-0475. Registration is at the first session of the class.

## JOHN MUIR AND MONO LAKE

Lee Stetson, professional actor/director, whose *Conversations with a Tramp* has received high critical acclaim, will give a benefit performance for Mono Lake at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 12. All who have seen his performances in Yosemite or elsewhere have been deeply moved.

The requested donation is \$6.00 Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Tramp, M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, 94707. Make checks payable to Mono Lake Committee.

## HELP WANTED

The Membership Chairman needs help! Starting immediately there will be a work session one night a month for several hours each session to do some pretty mindless work on the files. Needed are three or four people to help check files, pull cards, and even do data entry on the computer if your interests lie in those directions. Only skills needed are reading, writing and some aptitude for alphabetizing. The first work night will be on either a Tuesday or Wednesday, depending upon response, and we will meet in the GGAS office, Shattuck Coop, Berkeley. Cookies and coffee or tea will be provided to help the help. Please respond if interested by phoning me at 526-5943 or Hillary Hulen at the office, 843-2222.

— HELEN GREEN

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDES AVAILABLE

The GGAS office has again in stock a good supply of *FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*. The GUIDE would be an excellent gift for a birder on your holiday list.

## LEAST TERN NEWS

Only 79-81 California Least Tern nesting attempts, representing the efforts of an estimated 53-64 pairs, were recorded in northern California this season. This is not what would be expected for one of the larger colonies alone. Overall, the estimated number of breeding pairs in northern California was down by about 40%.

The primary colony, Naval Air Station, Alameda, hosted 54 of the known nesting attempts including the majority of the California Least Terns' first attempts at the Oakland Airport were probably primarily by terns renesting after failures at NAS, Alameda. Bair Island accommodated only 3 attempts later in the season. Thanks to Marty Goldberg, a chemist at the PG&E Power Plant in Pittsburg, another California Least Tern nesting site has been added to our list. Seven to nine pairs nested at the plant this year and the colony had the best fledgling success of the northern colonies. At least 16 chicks fledged at northern colonies.

The official estimates are not available yet but, unfortunately, a remarkable decrease in the number of California Least Terns breeding in southern California has been reported. It is feared that the missing terns are dead.

California Least Terns and their fledglings have been seen for a second consecutive season on Baumberg Tract near the San Mateo Bridge. Salt ponds and berms between them are foraging and resting areas for a period before they begin their migration to their wintering grounds. Up to 60 or more were hosted there at one point. This pre-migratory staging area was discovered last year and it is only the second staging site that has

been located in the Bay Area, and the only known to be used by the East Bay colony.

—LAURA COLLINS

## COOPER SOCIETY MEETING

The next meeting of the Northern Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be held on Monday, Nov. 5. Steve Pruitt-Jones will talk on his research in New Guinea where he has been studying behavior of bower birds.

The seminar will be in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, UC Berkeley at 7:45 by a business meeting. Everyone interested in birds is invited to attend and bring a friend.

## NEWS FROM AUDUBON CANYON RANCH

Two groups of docents are at work or in training for the 1984-85-86 seasons at Audubon Canyon Ranch.

At Picher Canyon, on the Bolinas Lagoon Ranch, 37 new docents are in training and joining in teaching with the many previously trained docents. Ray Peterson, ACR's resident biologist has presented the fall orientation theme as "Preparing for Winter", to study the many changes in the plant and animal world during this season. In addition, Point Reyes Bird Observatory interns will teach docent classes in "Bird in Hand" techniques at the Palo-Marin Center.

At Bouverie Audubon Preserve, 53 docents are continuing their training program and teacher education. During the 1984 Spring season, 58 groups - comprising over 1400 persons - enjoyed docent directed tours through our beautiful new preserve.

Ray Peterson announces the start of new fall classes:

Saturday, Nov. 10 Audubon Canyon Ranch Special.

Saturday, Nov. 17 Bouverie Audubon Preserve Special.

Sunday, Nov. 18 Audubon Cypress Grove Special.

The Ranch is on Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach. The phone is 383-1644.

## NAS FUND APPEALS

If you find National Audubon's fund appeals coming to you too frequently there is now a way to turn them off. Send a post card or letter to SPECIAL APPEALS, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Ave., New York, N. Y. 10022. Deborah Cafolla will take your name off the list.

## 1984 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The firm of Kirby and Mangini, Certified Public Accountants, has completed its review of the records for Fiscal Year 1983-84, and its report has been accepted by the board of directors. Copies are on file at the office, and are available there for review.

## NAS FIELD SEMINARS

The National Audubon Society has announced its 1985 - 86 offerings of field seminars and ecology camps.

**Winter Ecology Ski Tour at Yellowstone, Boundary Water Wilderness** in January and February, **Nature Photography** in Florida in March, and in April, **Desert Ecology** in California. All these are led by Audubon instructor-naturalists. Write for a brochure to NAS, 4150 Darley Ave., Boulder, CO 80303 or phone (303) 499-5409.

## GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For GGAS	Gift of
In Memory of	
Robert Fisher	Elsie Roemer
Earl Troxell	T. I. F. O.
Mr. George Campbell	Gertrude Bialos
	T. I. F. O.
	Mr. & Mrs. J. Tominaga
In Honor of	
Madge Sutton	Jimmy Pickle Sutton
For Rare Bird Alert	
Tape Machine	Edwin Duerr
	Florence Plymell
	George Peyton
	Mrs. Mary McKinnon
	Donald Brockhurst
To Sponsor a Class	
Audubon School Program	Geraldine Murphy

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

# — SECOND CLASS MATTER



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THE GULL

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

**The Gull deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**